

THE NEWBERRY HERALD.

FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 22, 1866.

Mr. Jefferson Davis.

It is not only gratifying and refreshing to read so admirable an article as that which we give below from the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, but remarkable that in the State of Ohio, the home of Salmon P. Chase, and a noted Radical stronghold too—such calm, sensible, and kind sentiments could be expressed in behalf of the distinguished prisoner of Fortress Monroe.

Speaking of the report of Surgeon Cooper upon the health of Mr. Davis and commenting thereon, it continues:

This is the treatment that is accorded to a man who, for four years, was at the head of more than one-third of the States of the American Union, and represented their Government both at home and abroad. It is the kind of revenge that is taken upon an individual who was the chief exponent of a national sentiment, embracing a country nearly as large as the Continent of Europe, exclusive of Russia. It indicates the manner in which the dignity of the country is displayed toward that great combatant, who for years wielded a power that resisted forces that would have overthrown any of the mighty monarchies upon the Continent of Europe. It is completing the record that we are making up for future history. By that it will appear that the great hero of eleven sovereign States, after a long and desperate struggle with their twenty-five compeers, at last, by the fortunes of war, fell into their hands. There were many times when a trifling change of circumstances would have sufficed to have thrown the balance into the other scale. A long career of success shone resplendent upon the banner of these Southern belligerents in the strife. The names of Bull Run, first and second Shiloh, the Seven Pines, of Gaines' Mill, of Fredericksburg, of Cedar Mountain, of Harper's Ferry, of Chancellorsville, of Antietam, of Chickamauga, of Murfreesboro' and Gettysburg, of Spottsylvania, of Coal Harbor, of the Wilderness, of Charleston, and Richmond, and Petersburg, suggest the greatest military events, both in their magnitude and in the bravery and determination of their contestants that appear in modern history. "Prisoner Davis," as he is called, in this Fortress Monroe dispatch, had under him military commanders as consummate as Marlborough, Wellington, or Prince Eugene. He commanded others who possessed the fire, the dash, the intrepidity and the heroic bravery of Marshals Ney, Murat, Lannes and Davoust, the great military palladins that surrounded Napoleon I. For four years "Prisoner Davis" was at Richmond, with his so-called Confederate Government within one hundred and twenty miles of the seat of the American Government. A million of soldiers under arms, the best in the world, were not adequate to his capture. It required a force as large as that which fought upon both sides at Austerlitz, or Jena, or Eylau, or Waterloo, or Friedland, to protect our Government in its Federal Capital. Men talked about its being a rebellion, an insurrection, but, in fact, it asserted

equal belligerent rights with ourselves and all of the nations of Christendom. Its guns were heard for months with trembling and alarm at Washington, and its hosts were seen in great numbers from its capitol spires and domes. Its government was as strong and as perfect in every respect, as much founded in the choice of the people as the one that ruled over us at Washington.

While we, blinded by the fumes of rage and passion, had outlawed all this mighty mass of people at the South, of us who were contending for the Constitution as it had been interpreted by the ablest American statesmen, their deeds and achievements had awakened a feeling akin to admiration in their behalf in all the disinterested nations of Christendom.

The names of Davis, of Lee and "Stonewall" Jackson, of Joe Johnston, of Longstreet, of A. P. Hill, of Beauregard, of Hood, of Ewell, of Forrest, of Stuart, were carried to the remotest boundaries of civilization and inspired even at the North something warmer than mere respect.

At length vastly superior numbers and some grave political mistakes of Jefferson Davis decided the day against the eleven sovereign States of the South. Their leader fell into our hands, and we, to our shame and disgrace, have been treating him like a felon and malefactor. The treatment of Napoleon Bonaparte by the English Government upon the island of St. Helena, which has been a dark stain upon the honor of Great Britain, was excellent and liberal compared to the miserable persecutions and torture of our great antagonist. We have sought most ridiculously to belittle a great national transaction down to the dimensions of an odious and treasonable conspiracy. We have practised upon our illustrious prisoner the refined cruelty of the Chinese, in condemning him to death by the slow torture of a want of sleep. A man well stricken in years, with a constitution enfeebled by disease, and of the most delicate organization, he has been confined in prison for more than a year, subjected to all the rude brutality that the military turnkeys could inflict, and that too by those who in times past dare not brook the gaze of the eyes of the imprisoned chieftain.

There is not a man of ordinary sense and intelligence who does not know that the question of the right of a State to secede has always been at least an open one in American politics, upon which, since the origin of our Government, the wisest of our statesmen have differed, and that no law applying to individual treason ever reached that case. To make Jefferson Davis a victim, under such circumstances—to especially single him out for punishment, is the very highest of criminal injustice. During the war we exchanged prisoners with the Confederate Government, and in other respects recognized it as an equal belligerent with ourselves. Whoever heard of exchanging prisoners with traitors or rioters? To go behind these events, after the war is over and erect the gallows and the pris-

on of those we thus treated, is simply cowardly and cruel inconsistency.

We should have done to Jefferson Davis long ago what we did to General Lee and his military compeers—released him upon parole, and considered the matter dismissed. Such conduct would have been worthy of a great and magnanimous people. It would have shown that we, in one respect at least, deserved the victory we had won, and that we had the wisdom to appreciate the true character of the struggle and to profit by it. The sooner the President performs this act of justice the better for his own reputation and that of the country. None but the blood-thirsty and the cowardly desire the further persecution of Jefferson Davis. The shrewd among the Radicals do not want an issue that they considered decided by the war to go again before and to be subjected to the abridgment of a jury. In other words, to sink a great national struggle down to the dimensions of a criminal trial, by whose results they cannot possibly strengthen their position. The Chief Justice of the United States, who, before he occupied his present position, taught the doctrine upon which Mr. Davis acted, viz: the right of a State to secede, has shirked the trial. He has invented excuses to prevent it, or he knows, as we all know, that it would be worse than a shameful farce. The country wants not an exciting and irritating trial to open old sores—wounds—but it needs a general and universal amnesty for all men.

The Cincinnati *Gazette's* Memphis special gives a gloomy account of affairs in Mississippi and Louisiana, from the destructive floods, the cold weather, &c. He predicts there will be famine in the South before another season. Planters have neglected planting grain, hoping for an immense crop of cotton and big prices. In many places the planters have no money, and are out of provisions. Merchants will give no more credit, though mortgages on the coming crops are offered at low figures. The consequence must be that the plantations will be abandoned, unless money and supplies are obtained from the North.

THE CONSCRIPTION IN EUROPE.—A Paris letter-writer says:

"Between the Bosphorus and the Baltic, a grand conscription is proceeding; there is not a landed proprietor, a simple shop-keeper, a stolid mechanic, a wind-beaten mariner, anywhere, who is not moved to terror or enthusiasm. Now, if ever, the great adjustment of differences in Europe is about to be instituted. The immediate parties to the outbreak are Italy and Prussia against Austria, but when these opposites clash together, there will be these minor quarrels to be satisfied."

There is said to be a queer old gentleman in this town, so benevolent that he holds an umbrella over a duck every time it rains.